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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/226,396	01/06/1999	ARON GAT	AGX-14	1125

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KIET TUAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2881

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DATE MAILED: 03/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/226,396

Applicant(s)

GAT et al.

Examiner

K. NGUYEN

Group Art Unit

2881

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE 02-19-03
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 32-33, 35-56 and 58-73 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☒ Claim(s) 60-73 is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 32-33, 35-56 and 58-59 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Objected Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the light energy sources being horizontally oriented with respect to the semiconductor wafer as recited in claim 51 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 32-33, 35-56 and 58-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moslehi et al. (5,367,606). (See the reasons as indicated in the previous office action dated November 20, 2001 in Paper No. 12).

Claims 60-73 are allowed.

Applicant's arguments filed on December 16, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that Moslehi et al. (5,367,606) does not disclose at least one focusing lens as recited in claim 32; a laser diode as recited in claim 43; and the plurality of light energy sources horizontally oriented with respect to the wafer as recited in claim 51.

This argument is not persuasive. As stated in the previous office action, the focusing lens and the laser diode are considered to be obvious variation in design, since the focusing lens and the laser diode are well known in the art and in the optical light system for focusing the light beam produced from the light source, thus would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the laser diode and the focusing lens in the Moslehi et al. apparatus for uniformly localizing, focusing and heating the wafer as Moslehi et al. disclose the multi-zone illuminator allowing uniform wafer heating during both transient and steady-state wafer heating cycles.

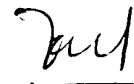
Orienting horizontally the plurality of light energy sources with respect to the wafer is also considered to be obvious variation in design, since both orienting vertically and horizontally light sources with respect to the wafer have the same results for heating the wafer, thus would have

been obvious to one skilled in the art to orient horizontally the plurality of light energy sources with respect to the wafer in the Moslehi et al. apparatus for uniformly heating the wafer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner *Kiet T. Nguyen* whose telephone number is (703) 308-4855.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9317.

K.T.N/Primary
March 9, 2003



KIET T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER